

CLAIMS:

1. A method for receiving updated information using a portable disk-based information device, comprising:
requesting update information from a data provider 150;
receiving the update information from the data provider 150;
5 comparing the update information with information provided on the disk; and
delivering updated information to a user in response to a user request,
reporting new information and replacing outdated information provided on the disk with
information received from the data provider 150.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising;
first agreeing to accept charges associated with receiving update information
from a data provider 150.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the disk-based information device is one of a
navigation device, a city guide, a hotel guide, a transportation schedule, or a business
directory.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the disk-based information device is operably
connected to a portable networking device 110.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the portable networking device 110 is one of a
personal data assistant (PDA) or a cellular telephone.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the data provider 150 is accessed through a
wireless communication network.
7. The method of claim 4 wherein the wireless communication network is one of
a mobile telephone network, a local-area network, or a satellite network.
- 30 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the disk-based information device includes a
read-only small form factor optical disk.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein some or all update information from the data provider 150 is stored using one or more storage means selected from a group consisting of memory caching, disk caching, non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM), magnetoresistive random access memory (MRAM), and a mixed-function disk.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein requesting update information from a data provider 150 comprises sending one or more items selected from a group consisting of the user's search criteria, the geophysical location of the disk-based information device, identifiers for the user of the disk-based information device, identifiers for the application being used, and identifiers for the disk being used.

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11. The method of claim 10 wherein information sent to the data provider 150 is used to minimize the amount of update information transferred by the data provider 150.

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12. A computer-usable medium for receiving updated information using a portable disk-based information device, comprising:

computer program code for requesting update information from a data provider 150;

computer program code for receiving the update information from the data provider 150;

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computer program code for comparing the update information with information provided on the disk; and

computer program code for delivering updated information to a user in response to a user request, reporting new information and replacing outdated information provided on the disk with information received from the data provider 150.

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13. The computer-usable medium of claim 10 further comprising:

computer program code for first agreeing to accept charges associated with receiving update information from a data provider 150.

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14. The computer-usable medium of claim 12 wherein requesting update information from a data provider 150 comprises sending one or more items selected from a

group consisting of the user's search criteria, the geophysical location of the disk-based information device, identifiers for the user of the disk-based information device, identifiers for the application being used, and identifiers for the disk being used.

5 15. The computer-usable medium of claim 14 wherein information sent to the data provider 150 is used to minimize the amount of update information transferred by the data provider 150.

10 16. A system for receiving updated information using a portable disk-based information device, comprising:
 means for requesting update information from a data provider 150;
 means for receiving the update information from the data provider 150;
 means for comparing the update information with information provided on the disk; and
15 means for delivering updated information to a user in response to a user request, reporting new information and replacing outdated information provided on the disk with information received from the data provider 150.

 17. The system of claim 16 further comprising:
20 means for first agreeing to accept charges associated with receiving update information from a data provider 150.

 18. A method for receiving updated information using a disk-based information device, comprising:
25 broadcasting update information from a data provider 150;
 receiving the update information from the data provider 150;
 comparing the update information with information provided on the disk; and
 delivering updated information to a user in response to a user request, reporting new information and replacing outdated information provided on the disk with information
30 received from the data provider 150.